

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080905

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 05201 ACTION SECSTATE INFO JAKARTA
SINGAPORE KUALA LUMPUR MOSCOW PARIS TOKYO BONN DATED MAR 30:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05201

SINGAPORE FOR LOS DEL: JAKARTA FOR LOS DEL -
FROM LEITZELL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS - STRAITS

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 1938

1. LEITZELL BRIEFED FIELDER (UK), DOUAY (FRANCE), KUME
(JAPAN) AND KOVALEV (USSR). HE GAVE EACH A COPY OF
DRAFT INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT AND AMENDMENT FOR ARTICLE
42 OF PART III. HE EXPLAINED ALL OTHER POINTS IN REFTEL,
INCLUDING INFORMAL NOTES GIVEN TO KADIR, BUT DID NOT
GIVE GROUP OF FIVE REPS COPIES OF INFORMAL NOTES.

2. LACK OF TIME AVAILABLE PREVENTED OPPORTUNITY FOR
EXTENSIVE REACTIONS. UK REP SEEMED PLEASED WITH GENERAL
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APPROACH BUT INDICATED SOME CONCERN WITH ENFORCEMENT
POINT, NOTING THAT UK DID NOT HAVE A FIRM POSITION ON THE
QUESTION OF ENFORCEMENT IN STRAITS.

3. JAPANESE REP APPRECIATED BRIEFING AND SEEMED PLEASED
BUT RESERVED COMMENT.

4. FRENCH REP IS NOT VERY KNOWLEDGABLE ON STRAITS QUESTIONS AND SIMPLY TOOK NOTES.

5. USSR REP RESPONDED SHARPLY ON ENFORCEMENT POINT AND ASKED WHETHER THIS REPRESENTED A CHANGE IN US POSITION. HE SAID USSR CONTINUED TO OPPOSE ENFORCEMENT RIGHT FOR COASTAL STATE IN STRAITS AND STRESSED ART. 40(4) OF PART II. PRIVATELY AFTERWARD, USSR REP RESTATED HIS CONCERN. ALSO, HE SAID HE SAW LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTY WITH MALAYSIAN AMENDMENTS ON TABLE. HE SAID HE HAD MET WITH KADIR AT AALCC. IMPLICATION WAS THAT HE HAD INDICATED FLEXIBILITY BUT HE WOULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THAT. KOVALEV SAID HE COULD NOT ASSURE ME THAT USSR WOULD REFUSE TO ACCEPT ANY OF MALAYSIAN AMENDMENTS DURING KADIR VISIT IN MID-APRIL. LEITZELL STRESSED RISK OF ANY REOPENING OF STRAITS ARTICLES AND OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES OF USING METHOD IN REFTEL. KOVALEV SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT POINT AND IMPLIED HE WOULD RAISE THIS ARGUMENT IN MOSCOW. HE COMMENTED THAT INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE II OR CONFERENCE PRESIDENT WOULD BE MUCH MORE USEFUL ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY MORE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE.

6. LEITZELL ASKED KOVALEV FOR INFORMATION ON MOCHTAR BUT HE HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT NOR BRIEFED SINCE HE HAS BEEN OUT OF MOSCOW ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY. ON RICHARDSON VISIT TO MOSCOW, HE EXPLAINED IN CONFIDENCE THAT DATES PROPOSED WERE EXACT DATES ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR SOCIALIST GROUP LOS CONSULTATIONS. HE ASKED THAT THIS INFORMATION NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PASSED ON. ON GROUP OF FIVE, HE WAS MORE DEFENSIVE AND SAID THAT KOZYREV FELT MEETING WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE NO OPPORTUNITY TO REVISE POSITIONS BEFORE CONFERENCE BEGAN. HE STRESSED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A CHANGE IN US/USSR LOS RELATIONS NOR AS RELATED TO OTHER US/USSR RELATIONS.

7. COMMENT. IF KOVALEV OPINION REPRESENTS CURRENT USSR THINKING ON STRAITS, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THEY NEED MORE CONVINCING PRIOR TO KADIR VISIT. WHILE KOVALEV IS NOT NORMALLY INVOLVED IN DETAIL ON STRAITS MATTERS, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT HE BROUGHT HIMSELF UP TO DATE BEFORE AALCC MEETING. KOVALEV WAS NOT PRESENT AT PARIS MEETING OF GROUP OF FIVE.

8. LEITZELL HAD BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH KRIEGHOF AND KEHDEN (FRG). ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT ARTICLE 17 OF PART IV WOULD NEED REVISION IF ENFORCEMENT POWER WAS GIVEN TO STRAITS STATES. REPS ALSO SAID FRG FOREIGN MINISTER

WOULD GO TO INDIA, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA IN APRIL AND
WOULD RAISE LOS. THEY WANT TO BE SUPPORTIVE IN
SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA ON STRAITS. I SAID THAT I WOULD
REQUEST USDEL TO SEND BRIEFING CABLES ON SINGAPORE AND
INDONESIA STOPS TO US EMBASSY BONN FOR INFORMATION OF
FRG. IF THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE, I SUGGEST YOU NOTIFY
BONN.

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